

1 SJR119  
2 102783-1  
3 By Senators Bedford, Little (Z), Mitchem, Barron, Beason,  
4 Benefield, Bishop, Brooks, Butler, Coleman, Denton, Dixon,  
5 Erwin, Figures, French, Glover, Griffith, Holley, Lindsey,  
6 Little (T), Marsh, McClain, Means, Mitchell, Orr, Penn,  
7 Pittman, Poole, Preuitt, Ross, Sanders, Singleton, Smith,  
8 Smitherman, and Waggoner  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 08-MAY-08

8 CREATING THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON  
9 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS.  
10

11 WHEREAS, Alabama's population growth and commercial  
12 development has followed the development of north-south  
13 highway transportation corridors through central and east  
14 Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, these corridors have prompted tremendous  
16 development through Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham,  
17 Huntsville, and the adjacent areas; and

18 WHEREAS, the location of these corridors has  
19 provided the basis for population increases, development of  
20 manufacturing, and other commerce resulting in great  
21 prosperity for this region of Alabama; and

22 WHEREAS, the east-west corridors, such as I-59/20,  
23 I-10, and U.S. 72, have contributed somewhat to both  
24 residential and commercial growth but, without a north-south  
25 freeway type highway, have not been sufficient to make west  
26 Alabama a viable area of commerce, leaving the western side of

1 the state primarily a rural, agricultural area with pockets of  
2 extreme poverty; and

3 WHEREAS, development of such a north-south freeway  
4 type highway has become even more paramount due to the  
5 development by Mississippi of a north-south corridor parallel  
6 to the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, leading to serious  
7 concerns that, without a comparable parallel highway east of  
8 the Waterway, west Alabama will not capitalize on the economic  
9 and commercial benefits of future development from the  
10 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway; and

11 WHEREAS, for many years the construction of a  
12 freeway from Mobile to Florence has been discussed and dreamed  
13 about, but it has been very difficult for transportation  
14 officials to provide funding due to heavy traffic congestion  
15 in the east and central part of the state; and

16 WHEREAS, around the country state governments are  
17 beginning to enjoy the benefits of innovative financing of  
18 highway projects through the combination of different funding  
19 sources - including state funds, federal funds, and revenues  
20 from private funds or tolls - to build high cost projects  
21 through innovative arrangements known in various jurisdictions  
22 around the country as Public-Private Partnership Projects or  
23 Build-Operate-Transfer Projects; and

24 WHEREAS, examination of such innovative methods  
25 could lead to a means of financing and constructing the badly  
26 needed north-south highway through West Alabama and would open

1 additional areas of the state to further economic development;  
2 now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That there is hereby created the  
5 Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Public-Private Partnership  
6 Projects. The Commission shall be composed of the following  
7 fifteen appointed members:

8 (1) The Governor shall appoint one representative  
9 from the Alabama Department of Transportation.

10 (2) The Governor shall appoint one representative  
11 from the Alabama Development Office.

12 (3) The Governor shall appoint one representative  
13 from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

14 (4) The Governor shall appoint two representatives  
15 from the state at large.

16 (5) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint two  
17 members of the State Senate, one of whom the Lieutenant  
18 Governor shall designate to serve as Chair of the Commission.

19 (6) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint one member  
20 who shall be selected from a list of three nominees submitted  
21 by the Association of County Commissions of Alabama.

22 (7) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint one member  
23 who shall be selected from a list of three nominees submitted  
24 by the Alabama Roadbuilders Association.

25 (8) The Lieutenant Governor shall appoint one  
26 additional member from the state at large.

1           (9) The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
2 shall appoint two members of the House of Representatives, one  
3 of whom the Speaker shall designate to serve as Vice-Chair of  
4 the Commission.

5           (10) The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
6 shall appoint one member who shall be selected from a list of  
7 three nominees submitted by the Alabama League of  
8 Municipalities.

9           (11) The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
10 shall appoint one member who shall be selected from the  
11 Economic Development Association of Alabama.

12           (12) The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
13 shall appoint one additional member from the state at large.

14           The membership of the Commission shall be inclusive  
15 and shall reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban,  
16 rural, and economic diversity of the state.

17           The Commission shall study public-private  
18 partnership projects in other jurisdictions and their  
19 potential application within Alabama, and it shall report its  
20 findings, conclusions, and recommendations for proposed  
21 legislation to the Legislature no later than the fifth  
22 legislative day of the 2009 Regular Session, whereupon the  
23 Commission shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further  
24 duties and liabilities.

25           Each nonlegislative member of the Commission may be  
26 reimbursed for expenses relating to attending meetings

1 consistent with the policies of the various appointing  
2 authorities.

3           Upon the request of the chair, the Secretary of the  
4 Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall  
5 provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the  
6 Commission. Each legislative member of the Commission shall be  
7 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his  
8 or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she  
9 attends a meeting of the Commission. These payments shall be  
10 paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the  
11 Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the state  
12 Comptroller on the State Treasury. Notwithstanding the  
13 foregoing, no members shall receive additional legislative  
14 compensation or per diem for a meeting day or committee  
15 meeting day during any regular or special legislative session,  
16 or if a member is being paid any other payments on the same  
17 dates for attendance on other state business. The total  
18 expenditures of the Commission shall not exceed ten thousand  
19 dollars (\$10,000).